Quick Guide: Beer Growlers

A growler is a reusable container that is capable of holding up to 64 fluid ounces of beer and is designed to be filled and sealed on the premises for consumption off of the premises.

Under District of Columbia law, only liquor stores, full-service grocery stores, breweries and brew pub permit holders may sell beer in growlers in the District of Columbia for consumption off of the premises.

RELEVANT LAW

The following laws and regulations govern the sale and distribution of growlers in the District of Columbia:

- §§ 25-101(24B), 25-112(a) and 25-117(a-1) of the D.C. Official Code; and
- § 23-705 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Beer in growlers may only be sold by the following types of alcoholic beverage licensees:

- Off-premises retailer class A, which includes liquor stores;

- Off-premises retailer class B that qualifies as a full-service grocery store;

- Manufacturer class B, which includes breweries; and

- On-premises retailer class C or D that have a brew pub permit, which allows the establishment to sell growlers from 7 a.m. to midnight.

SALES RESTRICTIONS

A retailer that holds a valid alcoholic beverage license to sell and distribute beer in growlers may not permit patrons that purchase sealed growlers containing beer to consume the beverage at the licensed establishment.

PENALTIES

Violators of the District's rules regarding the sale and distribution of growlers may be

subject to a minimum $1,000 fine, as well as possible suspension or revocation of the violator's alcoholic beverage license pursuant to D.C. Official Code Title 25, section 823; and D.C. Municipal Regulations Title 23, section 800.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, visit ABRA.DC.Gov or contact ABRA at 202-442-4423 or ABRA@DC.Gov.

This Quick Guide is current as of July 2014. It does not include all District of Columbia alcoholic beverage rules and regulations. District of Columbia Official Code Title 25 provides a comprehensive review of all District alcoholic beverage laws.

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